

DETAILED ACTION
EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 16-28, 30-34 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest reasonable prior art to the instant application does not disclose setting an image forming parameter, dynamic range, filter or map as a function of the coherence factor calculated as a function of the data.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jenny G. Ko on 1/29/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 16:

Step C) has been deleted and replaced with:

(C) setting an image forming parameter as a function of the coherence factor,

(D) processing beamsummed data with the image forming parameter, said parameter used to synthesize scan lines, compound data from multiple scan lines, set a number of sequential beams, set a number of sub-apertures , set a number of focal zones, or combinations thereof, and

(E) forming an image as a function of the coherence factor and beamsummed data.

Claim 27:

In Lines 6 and 8 “operable to” has been deleted and replaced with:

configured to

Claim 30:

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Step B) has been deleted and replaced with:

(B) determining a coherence factor as a function of the ultrasound data;
forming and displaying an image with a dynamic range, filtering with a nonlinear filter, and mapping with a nonlinear map; and

Claim 34:

In Lines 4 and 6 “operable to” has been deleted and replaced with:

configured to

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOEL M. LAMPRECHT whose telephone number is (571)272-3250. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00 Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian L. Casler can be reached on (571) 272-4956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/BRIAN CASLER/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3737

JML